

CONCORDIA COUNCIL ON STUDENT LIFE

Minutes of a Meeting held in Room AD-128, Loyola Campus, at 3:30 P.M., on Tuesday,
17 November 1981

PRESENT: Dr. R. Breen, Chairman; Mr. D. Arfin, Ms. D. Britton, Mr. B. Counihan,
Dr. E. Enos, Mr. W. Harper, Ms. G. Hirsch, Ms. A. Kerby, Mr. F. Loverso,
Mr. C. Senosier, Mr. J.A. Sproule, Prof. R. Swedbury, Rev. M. Terho,
Ms. D. Brundage, Recorder

ABSENT: Mr. L. Burogano, Mr. R. Javitch, Prof. M. Taylor

GUESTS: Mr. D. Boisvert, Ms. M-C Brault, Ms. D. Chatfield

Chairman's Remarks

81.11.1 A quorum of members being present, the Chairman opened the meeting and referred to the reply he had received from the Ministry of Education in response to his letter regarding the differential fee for international students. In essence, the Minister had stated that what had been done could not be undone. In discussion with the Vice-Rectors, Academic of the other Quebec universities, Dr. Breen had understood that the only institution for which the fee had caused difficulty was Concordia. In part, this situation is a result of the method used to allocate Government funds to needy students; the number of such students was calculated and multiplied by a certain sum per student. However, many students from France are covered by an entente between governments and many of McGill's American students are able to apply to a fund supported by American alumni. Dr. Breen went on to say that he had asked the International Student Advisors to provide him with an estimate of how much money would be required to help Concordia's needy international students and, once the figure becomes available, he said, he would make a recommendation to the Priorities and Finance Committee that such a sum be allocated from last year's budget surplus.

Approval of the Agenda

81.11.2 Mr. Senosier MOVED and Mr. Arfin SECONDED that item 5 on the Agenda, "Letter from the World University Service of Canada to Dr. John O'Brien, 30 September 1981, CCSL 81-11-D2" be considered after item 7, "Presentation of the Financial Aid Officers: Ms. M.C. Brault and Mrs. F. Haffey". MOTION CARRIED. Ms. Kerby then MOVED and Mr. Sproule SECONDED that the Agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of 20 October 1981

81.11.3 Mr. Sproule MOVED and Rev. Terho SECONDED that the Minutes of the Meeting of 20 October 1981 be approved. MOTION CARRIED.

81.11.3.1 Mr. Boisvert noted that pursuant to item 81.10.1.3 of the Minutes, he is optimistic that the Task Force on International/Cultural Associations will be in a position to make a recommendation to the Chairman before Christmas.

81.11.3.2 Mr. Boisvert also noted that, pursuant to item 81.10.3.3 of the Minutes, the Priorities and Finance Committee had met once and would

meet again two weeks hence. In the meantime all relevant documentation will be collected and the student services' staff will be asked for proposals and recommendations.

Orientation Report, CCSL 81-11-D1

81.11.4 Mr. Arfin MOVED and Ms. Kerby SECONDED that Council accept the document, CCSL 81-11-D1, "Report of the Orientation Co-ordinating Committee 1981". MOTION CARRIED. Mr. Arfin then referred to the excellent job done by Dann Rogers on Orientation 1981 and suggested that Council formally endorse the concept. He then MOVED and Mr. Harper SECONDED as follows:

81.11.4.1 "The Concordia Council on Student Life affirms its commitment to an orientation program of whatever type for Fall registration."
MOTION CARRIED.

81.11.4.2 Finally, Mr. Arfin mentioned that the financial support given by Council to the 1981 Orientation program had been much appreciated. He went on to mention that one problem that had become apparent was the lack of integration between the troubleshooters and the people who run registration and said that this should be corrected in future years. Ms. Kerby noted that this same problem has been felt by other areas that are involved in registration.

Document of the Minist`ere de l'Education, "La vie étudiante", October 1981, CCSL 81-11-D3

81.11.6 Dr. Breen stated that Minister of Education Laurin had convened a group representing all of the Quebec Universities to which he had presented his formula for education in Quebec. Specifically, he indicated that there should be more co-operation and concentration. Four Friday meetings will be held, one of which will deal with student life. Six administrators will be present, six students, and appropriate back-up people.

81.11.6.1 Mr. Boisvert then undertook to provide a précis of the document for Council's convenience. The present document, Mr. Boisvert said, comes from a three-volume document produced by a 1979 commission of the Conseil des Universités. The following points are made:

81.11.6.1 The Ministry is anxious to protect student rights in the university and to ensure that students play an active role within the institution.

81.11.6.2 In an era of professorial unions, a polarized university emerges. Students do not have an equal guarantee of their rights.

81.11.6.3 The student is a consumer of services and the architect of his own formation.

81.11.6.4 A first principle: the quality of life within the university is the hub of the university and students must become more involved in the educational and cultural milieu; they must have a voice in the major decisions of the day and must have a role in the decision-making process.

81.11.6.5 What are the rights of students? First, they are protected by the Charter of Human Rights as is every other member of society. Also, they have the rights of consumers and the right to be responsible for their own formation. The services offered them should reflect what they themselves want out of their education. Although it is possible, an official Charter of Student Rights might not be appropriate. Mention is made of the Ombudsman model and another proposal, that a Commission of Student Rights be set up as an autonomous body.

81.11.6.6 A second theme - the role of students in the academic enterprise. Educational services have a public character. Professors are accountable, as are student services professionals. Three ways by which this role is attained: information, participation and evaluation. Students must have access to full and complete information, including appeal procedures. They must have full participation in all levels of decision-making, including the contractual, particularly at the grass-roots level. All universities should adopt standard course evaluations for all faculties and departments. These would form part of the professors' dossiers.

81.11.6.7 With regard to student associations, they must have a voice at all levels of decision-making and are in a better position to deal with university-wide matters. To guarantee their existence, the Minister could accredit them, but it is not felt that this is appropriate.

81.11.6.8 Mr. Boisvert noted that the document asks questions at the end of each section. It is very broad and it is obviously intended that the people at the meeting will flesh it out. Mr. Counihan recalled that praise had been given to the ombudsman model and noted that certain other universities have, perhaps, not adapted as well as Concordia has. In some areas, Concordia has almost anticipated the document and has been one of the leaders.

81.11.6.9 Dr. Breen offered his thanks to Mr. Boisvert and stated that he would arrange for a copy of the excellent précis to be distributed to members.

Presentation of the Financial Aid Officers: Ms. M.S. Brault and Mrs. F. Haffey

81.11.7 Dean Counihan introduced Ms. Brault, Financial Aid Officer on the Sir George Williams Campus and noted that because Mrs. Haffey, Loyola's Financial Aid Officer, was out of town, Ms. Chatfield would speak on behalf of the Loyola operation.

81.11.7.1 Ms. Brault began her discussion of provincial loans and bursaries by noting that the procedures are working smoothly this year. Some 1,500 loans have been received and a high number of bursaries is anticipated. In response to Dr. Breen's query, Ms. Brault stated that the Financial Aid Office processes loans from other provincial governments in addition to those from Quebec. The Office also handles the emergency loan fund. On the Sir George Williams Campus, the size of this fund is \$12,000 per year, of which some \$7,000 is presently on hand.

81.11.7.2 With regard to Quebec loans, 1,300 have been received this year.

In order to be eligible for a loan, a student must be a resident of Quebec and registered as a full-time student. No interest is charged as long as full-time status is maintained; it commences six months thereafter. The criteria as to eligibility for loans is established by the Government. Parents' income is a factor and in order for a student to be considered independent of his parents he must be married, be doing a second degree, have a child, or have had an interruption of his studies.

81.11.7.3 According to Ms. Chatfield, of the 650 loan applications processed on the Loyola Campus, 442 have been granted, 31 refused and 177 are pending. At Loyola, the Financial Aid Office also handles currency control and scholarships. Entrance scholarships exist for students entering their first year at Concordia if they have never previously attended a university. The value of these is \$1,000 for each of three years. Students entering in January may be awarded an amount of \$500. The Scholarship Committee consists of five faculty members, the two Financial Aid Officers and two students. This year three new scholarships have been awarded and twelve others renewed for students who are over sixty, are taking at least eighteen credits and are in a 90-credit program.

81.11.7.4 Of 130 applicants, 68 received new entrance scholarships this year. The criteria used to award entrance scholarships is the student's marks. These usually range around 85%. In answer to Mr. Loverso's question as to why scholarships are awarded, Ms. Chatfield replied that the intention is to attract good students. Although, she added, if two applicants produced identical marks, a letter of recommendation on behalf of one might be considered, the overriding factor is marks.

81.11.7.5 The money for all scholarships comes from a fund raised by a Committee of the Board of Governors. In response to Prof. Swedburg's query as to how students learn of the availability of the scholarships, Ms. Chatfield replied that the Liaison Officers advertise in the CEGEP's and the University Calendar also contains the pertinent information.

81.11.7.6 Having established that the number of loans and bursaries to be received on the Sir George Williams Campus will increase by some 500 in this year over last and that Loyola's number will be approximately the same for both years, Dr. Breen thanked both ladies for their informative presentations.

Letter from the World University Service of Canada to Dr. John O'Brien,
30 September 1981, CCSL 81-11-D2

81.11.5 Some discussion took place with regard to WUSC's request that Concordia undertake some degree of sponsorship of students who are political refugees from other countries and the unfortunate status of some

similar students who are already attending Concordia. Some doubt was expressed as to the wisdom of acceding to WUSC's request before attending to the problems of student refugees who are already here. Although it is difficult to identify students with this status, Ms. Kerby agreed to provide Dr. Breen with a report regarding those of whom she is aware. Insofar as activities which Council might undertake to raise funds for either or both of the foregoing groups of students, it was suggested that the International/Cultural Associations might have some ideas, or that something might be done in connection with one of the student events, for instance, Carnival.

Reports from Directors

81.11.8 Mr. Sproule reported that all counselling schedules are full and that recruiting is more active than expected, particularly on the Loyola Campus. The Placement Service is experiencing difficulty in obtaining the appropriate which is needed for this activity, albeit for a relatively short period of the year. The reading program which Ms. Osborne had revised to include a writing skills component has proved to require an excessive student workload and, consequently, will be rewritten.

81.11.8.1 Dr. Enos reported that all Fall/Winter programs in the Athletics Department are in full swing.

New Business

81.11.9 No new business was brought before the meeting.

Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

81.11.10 It was established that Council's next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 8 December 1981, at 2:30 P.M., on the Sir George Williams Campus, if possible.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M.

Dell Brundage
Secretary